



July 2004

Summer is here!

Dear friend,

Well, July is almost behind us. The summer seems to be slipping away so fast – I hope you are enjoying it so far.

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August promises to be a busy month. I have a number of events coming up, including a Select Committee hearing on the Alameda Corridor East, a project that is important not only to the district but San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

The Alameda Corridor East is the multi-modal (train and truck) freight corridor that extends 52 miles from Redondo Junction in Los Angeles County to the Rialto Junction in San Bernardino County. The route is essentially a conduit for transporting freight between the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and the rest of the nation.

The ports generate \$5.4 billion in state and local tax revenues and account for 25% of all waterborne U.S. trade. That translates into an immense amount of goods, goods which are ultimately loaded onto trucks and trains and sent on their way via our freeways and railroad tracks.

The San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire bears the brunt of the resulting impacts: an increase in traffic congestion, air pollution, noise pollution and commute times. And as international trade increases, so will the problems.

The Alameda Corridor East (ACE) project was created to help to minimize the impacts to the region by building grade separations that physically separate major roadways from intersecting railroad tracks. ACE is also installing state of the art traffic signals, safety devices and crossing gates at select intersections to forewarn motorists of approaching trains.

The idea is to improve train traffic conditions not only to alleviate many of the problems posed by the increase in goods movement, but also to facilitate train traffic conditions so that more trains can be pressed into service at the ports. The more trains that are able to carry goods out of the ports, the less trucks needed and the less traffic generated.

POMONA CONSTRUCTION STARTS

You may have already noticed some of the projects in progress. Construction of two roadway underpasses at the two Union Pacific tracks at East End Avenue and Reservoir Street (along First Street) commenced June 21. Once completed the railroad crossings will alleviate congestion and improve safety. The newly configured Reservoir Street and East End Avenue will include a number of pedestrian and motorist safety improvements, including walkways with protective railing.

A temporary railroad track bypass (shoofly) will be installed to divert train traffic from the railroad bridge construction areas. Reservoir Street will be the first to be constructed and during that time, East End Avenue will remain open to traffic. Once Reservoir Street is completed, East End Avenue will be closed and construction will begin on it. By combining the two grade separation projects, the overall construction effort will be reduced by approximately one year.

21st CENTURY TECHNOLOGY COMES TO POMONA

A number of Pomona's street/railroad intersections will be getting state-of-the-art improvements to help facilitate traffic. The IR/RIS is a pilot program that will incorporate new technologies that improve advanced train detection to better control traffic and reduce motorist delay. It consists of electronic message signs triggered by oncoming trains that will direct motorists and emergency vehicles to nearby underpasses when crossings are blocked by trains.

The IR/RIS improvements will be installed at five crossings: Hamilton Boulevard, Park Avenue, Main Street, Palomares Street and San Antonio Avenue.

I look forward to seeing these projects completed. Next month I will talk about some proposed projects in Montclair.

West Nile Town Hall meeting

As you know, there has been a recent outbreak of the West Nile Virus in Southern California. My office, along with West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, is sponsoring a town hall meeting in Ontario to educate the public in preventing the spread of the virus.

Date: Saturday, Aug. 14, 2004

Location: Westwind Park Community Center, 2425 Riverside Dr., Ontario

Time: 10 a.m. –11:00 a.m.

The public is welcome to attend.

Protect your privacy:

Don't become a victim of identity theft.

According to a recent study by the Federal Trade Commission, more than nine million Americans were the victims of identity theft in 2002. Education is key in preventing the unscrupulous from "stealing" your identity. The most important way to protect your personal information is use common sense. Please read over the simple steps provided to keep it from happening to you.

If it does happen to you, report the crime to the police.

Also call the three major credit bureaus and all creditors. Call your bank, if your checks or bank account information was stolen, the DMV if your driver's license was stolen and the Post Office if your mail was stolen or address changed. A list of credit bureaus and other important resources are also listed. For a brochure with additional information call my office at (909) 621 -2783.

- *Personal information you need to protect includes your home address and phone number, Social Security number, bank and credit card account numbers and Personal Identification Numbers (PIN).*
- *Do not carry your Social Security card or number, your birth certificate, passport or other important identifying documents in your purse or wallet. Also, check your health plan and other cards to make sure they do not have your Social Security number on them. Release your Social Security number only when it is absolutely necessary.*
- *Tear up or shred credit card receipts and pre-approved credit card offers, bank statements, investment account statements, phone bills and such before throwing them away. Many identity thieves get their information by going through trash cans.*
- *When paying bills through the mail, take them to the Post Office instead of leaving them in your personal mailbox, your office out box or the neighborhood postal box. These can be broken into.*
- *Ask the Post Office not to process change of address requests unless you personally make the request and can show identification and proof of residence.*
- *Ask your bank to add extra security to your account. Most will allow you to use an additional password when accessing your account. Do not use your mother's maiden name or the last four digits of your Social Security number as passwords, or keep your credit card or ATM card passwords in your purse or wallet.*

IDENTITY THEFT CONTACTS:

Equifax

To order report: 800-685-1111
To report fraud: 800-525-6285
www.equifax.com

Experian

To order report and to report
fraud: 888-397-3742
www.experian.com

Trans Union

To order report: 800-888-4213
To report fraud: 800-680-7289
www.transunion.com

CHECK VERIFICATION COMPANIES

Global Payments: 800-766-2748

Chexsystems: 800-428-9623

Certegy: 800-337-5689

Telecheck: 800-710-9898

Check Center: 800-843-0760

SCAN: 800-262-7771

Unclaimed Property

My District Office is hosting two additional mobile Unclaimed Property forums in August.

On Friday, Aug. 6, we will be at Montclair City Hall, 5111 Benito St. in Montclair. On Friday, Aug. 13 we will be in Pomona, at Palomares Park, 499 E. Arrow Highway.

At the forum you can learn more about California's Unclaimed Property program and search the database to see if the state is holding any of your property. My staff will be on hand to assist in the search and with filing any claims on property that may result. So far we have found almost \$50,000 for those who have come to the workshops.

For more information, call my office at (909) 621 -2783.

2004 Business Roundtable

The Montclair, Ontario, Pomona and Chino Valley Chambers of Commerce, Southern California Edison, the Gas Company and I are co-sponsoring a Business Roundtable Aug. 13, from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Montclair Community Center, 5111 Benito Street, Montclair.

Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions about legislation. A continental Breakfast will be provided.

To RSVP, or for additional information, call (909) 621-2783.

Thought for August:

"Imagination is more important than knowledge."

Albert Einstein

Assemblymember Negrete McLeod's Committee Assignments

Chair, Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security Committee
Co-Chair, Legislative Ethics Committee
Appropriations Committee
Governmental Organization Committee
Health Committee
Higher Education Committee
Business and Professions Committee
Banking and Finance Committee

Chair, Select Committee on Alameda Corridor East
Select Committee on CA Horse Racing Association
Select Committee on Community Colleges
Select Committee on Future of Farming in CA
Select Committee on Gang Violence and Juvenile Crimes
Select Committee on Groundwater Quality and Availability
Select Committee on Rural Economic Development
Select Committee on Water Management, Storage, Conservation and Supply

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Please check out our on-line legislative survey!

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